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## KALADAN PROJECT BETWEEN INDIA, MYANMAR TO BE OPERATIONAL BY 2027: SONOWAL



The Kaladan project, linking India and Myanmar, aims to boost Northeast connectivity. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced its completion by 2027. This project will shorten the Aizawl-Kolkata distance by 700 km. The Sittwe port is ready, and road development is underway. The project receives significant investment to develop waterways. It will transform the Northeast into a South Asian business hub.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Monday said the ambitious Kaladan project between India and Myanmar, which is aimed at reducing the Northeast's distance from the rest of the country, will be operational by 2027. Addressing a press conference here, Sonowal said the distance between Aizawl and Kolkata will be shortened by 700 km once the project is ready. "The Sittwe port (in Myanmar) is ready. Now work is going on to develop the road connectivity to Aizawl. The entire Kaladan

Multimodal Transit Transport Project will be operational by 2027," he added. Sonowal, the minister of ports, shipping and waterways, said that his ministry is investing ₹1,000 crore in developing the waterways of the project, while other agencies are taking care of the rest. He said that the Northeastern region will play a critical role in reviving the economic prosperity of India. "PM Narendra Modi said that transformation should be done through transportation. As per his direction, we want to develop Northeast as the business hub of South Asia. For that, waterways will play a crucial role," Sonowal said. The Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport project was jointly identified by the two countries to create a multi-modal mode of transport for the shipment of cargo from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar, as well as to the Northeast, through the southeast Asian country.

Source: business-standard.com

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# 4000 CHIN REFUGEES FLEE TO MIZORAM FOLLOWING CLASHES BETWEEN ETHNIC ARMED GROUPS IN MYANMAR

Nearly 4,000 people from the Chin community in Myanmar fled to Mizoram's Champhai district in the wake of a fierce gunfight between two ethnic armed groups.

The refugees arrived in the Zokhawthar and Vaphai villages through a border bridge and by crossing the Tiau river that separates the two countries in the area. Most of them are taking shelter in their relatives' houses, while others are lodged in schools and community halls.

Chins, Mizos, Kukis, Zomis, Hmars, and Kuki-Chins (Bangladesh) are ethnic cousins, belonging to the Zo community. Most Chins and Mizos living in places near the Myanmar border have their relatives on each other's side.

The refugees started arriving in Mizoram from Thursday after observing the movement of armed rebels and apprehending fresh trouble. As the situation in Myanmar areas remained tense, the Mizoram government did not ask them to go back. A Mizoram government official, who did not wish to be named, told TNIE that the refugees taking shelter in community halls and schools were being



looked after by villagers and a few NGOs. The gunfight between the Chin National Defence Force (CNDP) and the Chinland Defence Force-Hualngoram (CDF-H) erupted on Saturday, reportedly to assert supremacy. The CNDP managed to capture all eight camps of the CDF-H in the area.

According to reports, a few CDF-H members, injured in the gunfight, were evacuated to Mizoram for medical treatment. The two rebel groups are part of the People's Defence Force that is leading a resistance movement against Myanmar's military junta which captured power through a coup in 2021. Amid the escalating tensions, Mizoram Chief Minister's political adviser Lalmuanpuia

Punte reportedly visited the border area on Sunday to hold talks with the leaders of the two extremist groups. The influx of these people comes at a time when Mizoram is already burdened with over 30,000 refugees from Myanmar and Bangladesh. People from Myanmar started fleeing to the northeastern state ever since the coup by Myanmar's junta. The refugees from Bangladesh – around 2,000 of them – had arrived in Mizoram two years ago in the wake of clashes between an armed ethnic group and Bangladeshi forces. Apart from these refugees, a few thousand Kuki-Zo tribals from Manipur, displaced by the ethnic violence, have also been taking shelter in Mizoram for the past two years.

Source: newindianexpress.com